

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1- 49 (Cancelled)

50. (Currently Amended) A process for modulating an immune response in a mammalian subject comprising administering to said subject an effective amount of a mammalian metabolite so as to modulate or change at least one component in the immune system of said subject, wherein the mammalian metabolite is a glycolipid, and wherein the immune response is part of the pathogenesis of a disease comprising an infection or an ~~immune dysfunction~~ auto-immune disorder.

51. (Original) The process of claim 50, wherein said immune system component comprises cellular, humoral or cytokine elements.

52. (Currently Amended): The process of claim 50, wherein said modulation or change is ~~specific or non-specific~~.

53-54 (Cancelled).

55. (Previously Presented): The process of claim 50, wherein said glycolipid comprises a monosaccharide ceramide.

56. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 55, wherein said monosaccharide ceramide comprises a β -glucosylceramide or β -galactosylceramide.

57. (Original) The process of claim 50, wherein said administering step is carried out by means comprising intravenous means, intra-muscular means, subcutaneous means, intraperitoneal means or oral means.

58. (Cancelled)

59. (Currently Amended) The process of claim ~~58~~50, wherein said immune response is part of the pathogenesis of a disease comprising an infection, wherein said infection is viral or bacterial.

60. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 59, wherein said ~~viral~~ infection is a viral infection that comprises HBV, HCV, or HIV.

61. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 58, wherein said immune dysfunction comprises diabetes type I, diabetes type II, rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease, arteriosclerosis and ulcerative colitis.

62. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 50, wherein said mammalian subject is a human.

63. (New) The process of claim 50, wherein said modulation or change is non-specific.